

LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH
14 July 1980

Oldham is spy base, says Russia

By JOHN SHAW

OLDHAM, Lancs, and a hamlet in Derbyshire were named by the Soviet news agency Tass yesterday as sites of secret schools for agents training to disrupt the Moscow Olympics.

Tass said that establishments in Weston upon Trent, near Derby (population 414) and Oldham, harboured American spies in "military bases." It claimed that the CIA was training "specially selected" agents to commit "subversive acts" during the Games.

The newspaper SOVIETSKAYA also ran the allegations and said the CIA had set up special firms to make false-bottomed suitcases, long underwear and other undergarments with hidden pockets, chocolate boxes, biscuit and sweet tins and coffee jars packed with leaflets and handbills on tissue paper.

The stories were regarded as "rubbish" by a spokesman at London. "It sounds like classic

Oldham and runs its youth camp at Weston.

Miss Lydia Deremenda, a member of the association's executive committee, said that the camp, for eight to 18-year-olds, was well-known in Russia.

She said: "This is just another attempt to discredit us in the eyes of the Ukrainian people. We have campaigned against the Olympics.

"The Russians said the CIA were the aggressors in Afghanistan. They are probably also hoping to prove they have contacts in the United Kingdom."

The chairman, Mr Jareslaw Rutkowskyj, who is busy organising a summer camp at Weston for 400-500 children, said: "These accusations are ridiculous. Where do they get their information from? We are amused rather than annoyed."

He said there had been a refugee camp in Western after the war and the association, which has 50 branches throughout the country, had had its youth headquarters there for 16 years. Next door is a pensioners' home with 30 Ukrainian residents.

propaganda because of the American and British governments' boycott of the Games.

Neither place, he said, had military establishments.

Meanwhile, at Weston, Mrs Linda Buxton, the village postmistress said: "They've got it wrong. There's no secret camp or Americans here."

Mrs Buxton, keeps the only shop at Weston. There is one pub and holiday home for young Ukrainians.

It emerged that the Ukrainian Youth Association in Great Britain has strong links in